NUMB. CCCXX.

The SPECTATOR.

Hæ ſunt quæ tenui ſudant in Cyclade— Juv.

Friday, March 7. 1712.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'YOU have given many Hints in your Pa-
'pers to the Diſadvantage of Perſons of
'your own Sex, who lay Plots upon
'Women. Among other hard Words
'you have publiſhed the Term Male-Coquets, and
'been very ſevere upon ſuch as give themſelves the
'Liberty of a little Dalliance of Heart, and play-
'ing faſt and looſe, between Love and Indifference,
'till perhaps an eaſy young Girl is reduced to Sighs,
'Dreams and Tears; and languiſhes away her Life
'for a careleſs Coxcomb who looks aſtoniſhed, and
'wonders at ſuch an effect from what in him was
'all but common Civility. Thus you have treat-
'ed the Men who are irreſolute in Marriage; but
'if you deſign to be impartial, pray be ſo honeſt as
'to print the Information I now give you, of a cer-
'tain Set of Women who never Coquet for the
'Matter, but with an high Hand Marry whom
'they pleaſe to whom they pleaſe. As for my part,
'I ſhould not have concerned my ſelf with them,
'but that I underſtand I am pitched upon by them,
'to be Marryed, againſt my Will, to one I never
'ſaw in my Life. It has been my Misfortune, Sir,
'very innocently to rejoice in a plentiful Fortune,
'of which I am Maſter, to beſpeak a fine Cha-
'riot, to give Direction for two or three handſome
'Snuff-Boxes, and as many Suits of fine Cloaths;
'but before any of theſe were ready, I heard Re-
'ports of my being to be Marryed to two or three
'different young Women. Upon my taking Notice of
'it to a young Gentleman who is often in my Com-
'pany he told me ſmiling, I was in the Inquiſition.
'You may believe I was not a little ſtartled at what
'he meant, and more ſo when he aſked me if I had
'beſpoke any thing of late that was fine. I told
'him ſeveral; upon which he produced a Deſcrip-
'tion of my Perſon from the Tradeſmen whom I
'had employed, and told me that they had cer-
'tainly informed againſt me. Mr. SPECTATOR,
'Whatever the World may think of me, I am
'more Coxcomb than Fool, and I grew very in-
'quiſitive upon this Head, not a little pleaſed with
'the Novelty. My Friend told me, there were a
'certain Set of Women of Faſhion, whereof the
'Number of Six made a Committee, who ſate
'thrice a Week, under the Title of the Inquiſiti-
'on on Maids and Batchelours. It ſeems, when-
'ever there comes ſuch an unthinking gay thing as my
'ſelf to Town, he muſt want all manner of Neceſ-
'ſaries, or be put into the Inquiſition by the firſt
'Tradeſman he employs. They have conſtant In-
'telligence with Cane-Shops, Perfumers, Toy-
'men, Coach-makers, and China-Houſes. From
'theſe ſeveral Places theſe Undertakers for Mar-
'riages have as conſtant and regular Correſpon-
'dence, as the Funeral-men have with Vintners
'and Apothecaries. All Batchelors are under their
'immediate Inſpection, and my Friend produced
'to me a Report given into their Board, wherein
'I an old Unkle of mine, who came to Town with
'me and my ſelf, were inſerted, and we ſtood
'thus; the Unkle ſmoaky, rotten, poor; the Ne-
'phew raw, but no Fool, ſound at preſent, very
'ſich. My Information did not end here, but my
'Friend's Advices are ſo good, that he could ſhew
'me a Copy of the Letter ſent to the young Lady
'who is to have me; which I encloſe to you.

Madam,

'THis is to let you know, that you are to be
'Marryed to a Beau that comes out on
'*Thurſday* Six in the Evening. Be at the *Park*:
'You cannot but know a Virgin-Fop; they have a
'Mind to look ſaucy, but are out of Countenance.
'The Board has denyed him to ſeveral good Fa-
'milies. I wiſh you Joy.

Corinna.

What makes my Correſpondent's Caſe the more deplorable, is, that as I find by the Report from my Cenſor of Marriages, the Friend he ſpeaks of is employed by the Inquiſition to take him in, as the Phraſe is. After all that is told him, he has Information only of one Woman that is laid for him, and that the wrong one; for the Lady-Commiſſioners have devoted him to another than the Perſon againſt whom they have employed their Agent his Friend to alarm him. The Plot is laid ſo well about this young Gentleman, that he has no Friend to retire to, no Place to appear in, or Part of the Kingdom to fly into, but he muſt fall into the Notice, and be ſubject to the Power of the Inquiſition. They have their Emiſſaries and Subſtitutes in all Parts of this united Kingdom. The firſt Step they uſually take, is to find from a Correſpondence, by their Meſſengers and Whiſperers with ſome Domeſtick of the Batchelor (who is to be hunted into the Toils they have laid for him) what are his Manners, his Familiarities, his good Qualities, or Vices; not as the Good in him is a Recommendation, or the ill a Diminution, but as they affect or contribute to the main Enquiry, What Eſtate he has in him? When this Point is well reported to the Board, they can take in a wild roaring Fox-hunter, as eaſily as a ſoft gentle young Fop of the Town. The Way is to make all Places uneaſy to him, but the Science in which they have allotted him to act. His Brother Huntſmen, Bottle Companions, his Fraternity of Fops, ſhall be brought into the Conſpiracy againſt him. Then this Matter is not laid in ſo bare-fac'd a Manner before him, as to have it intimated Mrs. Such-a-one would make him a very proper Wife; but by the Force of their Correſpondence they ſhall make it (as Mr. *Waller* ſaid of the Marriage of the Dwarfs) as impracticable to have any Woman beſides her they deſign him, as it would have been in *Adam* to have refuſed *Eve*. The Man named by the Commiſſion for Mrs. Such-a-one, ſhall neither be in Faſhion, nor dare ever to

appear

appear in Company, ſhould he attempt to evade their Determination.

The female Sex wholly govern domeſtick Life; and by this Means, when they think fit, they can ſow Diſſentions between the deareſt Friends, nay make Father and Son irreconcilable Enemies, in ſpite of all the Ties of Gratitude on one Part, and the Duty of Protection to be paid on the other. The Ladies of the Inquiſition underſtand this perfectly well; and where Love is not a Motive to a Man's chuſing one whom they allot, they can, with very much Art, inſinuate Stories to the Diſadvantage of his Honeſty or Courage, till the Creature is too much diſpirited to bear up againſt a general ill Reception, which he every where meets with, and in due time falls into their appointed Wedlock for Shelter. I have a long Letter bearing Date the 4th Inſtant, which gives me a large Account of the Policies of this Court; and find there is now before them a very refractory Perſon who has eſcaped all their Machinations for two Years laſt paſt: But they have prevented two ſucceſſive Matches which were of his own Inclination, the one, by a Report that his Miſtreſs was to be married and the very Day appointed, Wedding-Clothes bought, and all things ready for her being given to another; the ſecond time, by inſinuating to all his Miſtreſs's Friends and Acquaintance, that he had been falſe to ſeveral other Women, and the like. The poor Man is now reduced to profeſs he deſigns to lead a ſingle Life; but the Inquiſition give out to all his Acquaintance, that nothing is intended but the Gentleman's own Welfare and Happineſs. When this is urged, he talks ſtill more humbly, and proteſts he aims only at a Life without Pain or Reproach: Pleaſure, Honour, or Riches, are things for which he has no Taſte. But notwithſtanding all this and what elſe he may defend himſelf with, as that the Lady is too old or too young, of a ſuitable Humour, or the quite contrary, and that it is impoſſible they can ever do other than wrangle from *June* to *January*, Every Body tells him all this is Spleen, and he muſt have a Wife; while all the Members of the Inquiſition are unanimous in a certain Woman for him, and they think they altogether are better able to judge, than he or any other private Perſon whatſoever.

SIR, *Temple, March* 3, 1711.

'YOur Speculation this Day on the Subject of 'Idleneſs has employed me ever ſince I read 'it, in ſorrowful Reflections on my having loiter'ed away the Term (or rather the Vacation) of '10 Years in this Place, and unhappily ſuffered a 'good Chamber and Study to lie idle as long. My 'Books (except thoſe I have taken to ſleep upon) 'have been totally neglected, and my Lord *Coke* 'and other Venerable Authors were never ſo ſlight'ed in their Lives. I ſpend moſt of the Day at a 'Neighbouring Coffee-Houſe, where we have, 'what I may call a lazy Club. We generally come 'in Night-Gowns, with our Stockings about our 'Heels, and ſometimes but one on. Our Salutation at Entrance is a Yawn and a Stretch, and then 'without more Ceremony we take our Place at the 'Lolling Table; where our Diſcourſe is, what I 'fear you would not read out, therefore ſhall not 'inſert. But I aſſure you, Sir, I heartily lament 'this Loſs of Time, and am now reſolved, (if 'poſſible, with double Diligence) to retrieve it, be'ing effectually awaken'd by the Arguments of 'Mr. *Slack* out of the Senſeleſs Stupidity that has 'ſo long poſſeſſed me. And to demonſtrate, that 'Penitence accompanies my Confeſſion, and Con'ſtancy my Reſolutions, I have lock'd my Door for 'a Year, and deſire you would let my Companions 'know I am not within. I am with great Reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt Obedient Servant,

N. B.

At the Requeſt of ſeveral Perſons of Quality, By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Friday, being the 8th of March, will be preſented a Play call'd the Mourning Bride. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

At the Golden Sugar-Loaf, right againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs, is juſt now made up, A freſh Parcel of Morning Gowns for Men and Women, of brocaded Silks, rich Damask Sattins and Callicoes, with ſuitable Linings; the Goods being bought of Perſons that fail'd, and are ſold conſiderable cheaper than any Shop can afford, with Canvis and the neweſt faſhioned quilted Petticoats. N. B. Several pretend to ſell under the ſame Notion, but not half the Variety, nor ſo good Pennyworth.

The Company for the Orkney and Zetland Fiſhery, having imported a large Quantity of new ſalted Cod and Ling, intend to ſell the ſame by Wholeſale or Retale, at their Houſe in Salisbury-Court, Fleet-ſtreet, and to continue till all be ſold.

The Houſe (late the Bull-head Tavern) within Aldgate, with large Vaults, all new repair'd, is to be Let: Enquire at Mr. Smith's the next Door at the Fleece, or at Mr. Apleby's in St. Laurence-lane, where a ſober young Man that can write, may hear of a Place.

At Richmond in Surrey, the Houſe of the late Lord Haverſham is to be Lett, furniſhed or unfurniſhed, or the Leaſe to be ſold, with or without Furniture; the Offices are very convenient, there is a pleaſant Garden well planted with Wall-fruit, a Coach-houſe, and Stables for 6 Horſes. Enquire at Mr. Appleby's in Chancery-lane, or at Mr. Jollies at the Black Lyon in Church-yard, or at the Houſe at Richmond.

This Day is publiſhed, the 4th and laſt Part of The Allies and the late Miniſtry defended againſt France and the preſent Friends of France: Containing a Vindication of the late Miniſtry, in relation to the Management of the War on the Part of England; with an Anſwer to the Author of the Conduct's Five Reaſons for making a Peace without Spain and the Indies. To which is added, a Poſtſcript in anſwer to his Remarks on the Barrier-Treaty. Printed for E. Sanger at the Poſt-houſe in Lincoln's-Inn-ſtreet, and ſold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-lane, where may be had the three former Parts.

Juſt publiſh'd,

The Triumph of Envy, or the Viſion of Shylock the Jew. To which is prefix'd a Copper Plate, finely engraven from the Original; done at Holland. Pr. 6d. Some Thoughts of a Member of the October Club about a Partition of Spain. Price 3d. The Hiſtory of Prince Mirabel's Intrigue, Riſe, and Diſgrace; with the ſudden Promotion of Novicius. Collected from the Memoirs of a Courtier lately deceas'd. Pr. 1s. Sold by J. Baker in Pater-noſter Row.

Remarks upon Remarks; or, the Barrier Treaty and the Proteſtant Succeſſion vindicated: In anſwer to the falſe and treaſonable Reflections of the Author of the Conduct of the Allies, with ſome critical Notes on the Repreſentation of Mr David Wilkes of Bruges. Printed for A. Baldwin near the Oxford-Arms in Warwick lane. Price 6d.

A Diſcourſe concerning the Reſurrection of Jeſus Chriſt: In 3 Parts. Wherein, 1. The Conſequences of the Doctrine are fully ſtated. 2. The Nature and Obligations of Worſhip, Evidence, are explained. 3. The Proofs of the Fact of our Saviour's Reſurrection, are propos'd, examin'd, and demonſtrated to be concluſive. With an Appendix concerning the impoſſible Production of Thought, from Matter and Motion: The Nature of Humane Souls, and of Brutes: The Anima Mundi, and the Hypotheſis of Plato. To Pan, as alſo concerning Divine Providence, the Origin of Evil, and the Univerſe in general. By H. Ditton, Maſter of the new Mathematical School in Chriſt's-Hoſpital. Printed by J. Darby for Bartholomew Cloſe, and ſold by A. Bell at the Croſs-Keys and Bible in Cornhill, B. Lintott at the Croſs Keys between the two Temple-Gate in Fleet-ſtreet.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in, as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford Buildings* in the *Strand*.